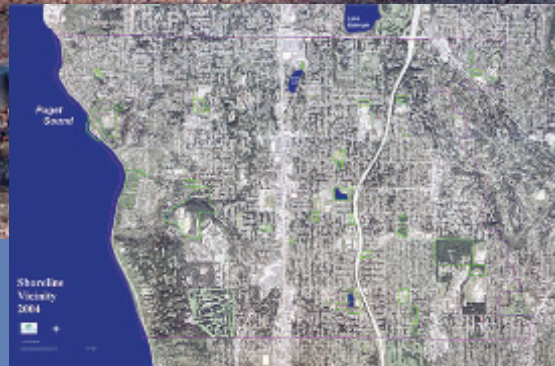


SPECIAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
CITY OF SHORELINE
CURRENTS



Shoreline 1995-2005: Founded on Community Spirit

November 2005 - Volume 7, Issue 8



Highlights

It all started Sept. 20, 1994, when residents voted to incorporate as the City of Shoreline. Following are just a few community highlights from our first 10 years.

1995

- City Council elected: Larry Bingham, Ron Hansen, Scott Jepsen, Connie King, Cheryl Lee, Linda Montgomery and Bob Ransom
- Council establishes the Planning Commission
- Aug. 31: Official City incorporation date
- Building Permit Office opens

Some milestones from the first ten years as a City are reasons to celebrate such as new play equipment in City parks (above), the completion of the first gateway at Ronald Bog Park (left) and the ribbon cutting for the first segment of the Interurban Trail (right). Others, such as the sinkhole caused by the 1996 New Year's storm (facing page), stand out in our memory as challenges the City had to face.

Celebrating 10 years

As Shoreline celebrates 10 years as a City, it is also celebrating being named the best place to live by *Seattle* magazine. And those who live here know that this honor is no coincidence nor is it an accident. The reason so many of us have made our home here – and an astonishing number of families stay here generation after generation – is because Shoreline is a great place to live, work and play.

Shoreline offers a range of housing options, excellent schools, an abundance of parks, thriving commercial areas, strong neighborhoods and a constantly improving infrastructure. We have all the conveniences of suburban living with a wealth of urban opportunities just around the corner.

Our location is what drew settlers here in the late 1800s and our strengths are what made residents choose incorporation as a new city over annexation to an existing city. The driving force behind incorporation was local control – local control of government decision-making, local control of how tax dollars were spent and local control of how the infrastructure was taken care of and improved.

Shoreline has met the expected — and unexpected — challenges of setting up a new city with much community spirit. It is this community spirit that has served us well in our first ten years as a City and it will be community spirit that takes us successfully into the next ten years and beyond.

Immediate Challenges and Ongoing Values

Shoreline residents voted to incorporate in September 1994 with the goal of having the community's future reflect community values. Shoreline officially went from being an unincorporated corner of Washington's most populous county to its own city on August 31, 1995. The first City Council was elected in April 1995 and began serving in May.

One of the first ways the Council made local government more accessible to residents was by setting up the Shoreline Customer Response Team (CRT). CRT serves as front line customer service for the City, answering questions, providing information, dealing with code enforcement issues and responding to immediate community needs such as filling pot holes, replacing downed road signs and clearing clogged storm drains.

Especially in the early years, CRT spent a lot of time patching up a failing infrastructure. A major challenge the City of Shoreline inherited was deteriorating infrastructure. The roads, storm water systems and parks all needed work. Getting this work done was something many residents looked forward to having the City do.

Any questions that lingered about the importance repairing our infrastructure were washed away along with 175th Street during the 1996 New Year's Eve storm. This dramatic example of failed infrastructure drew national attention and a visit to Shoreline from Vice President Al Gore. And though it showed that even as a new city Shoreline was up to facing major challenges – we got it fixed – it also underlined the need for repairs and improvements.

Even before this, the City had started fixing the many small problems that caused flooding, road failure and park concerns. The Council had also begun to identify the larger projects that would

1996

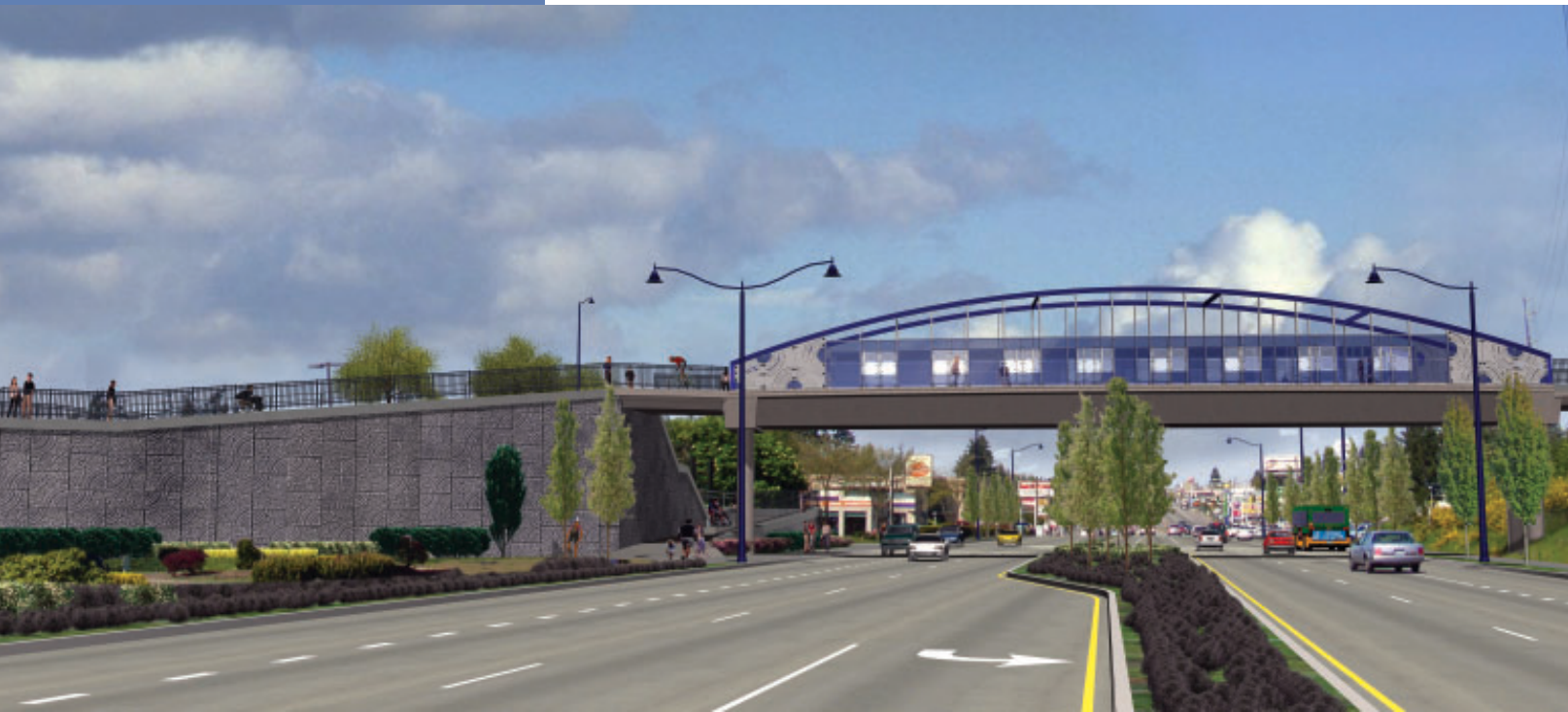
- Council establishes the Library Board, Council of Neighborhoods & Mini-Grant Program
- Eastside and Westside Neighborhood Police Centers grand openings
- Comprehensive planning begins
- Council establishes moratorium on short plats
- "Shoreline Days" Parade on Aurora Ave. N.
- Council takes over parks from King County
- Aurora Corridor Study first public meeting
- Sinkhole at 6th Ave. NW and 175th St. causes a multi-million dollar disaster pictured below



1997

- Vice President Al Gore visits the sinkhole
- Council awards first Mini-Grants to Innis Arden, Meridian Park and Ridgecrest
- New police station at 1206 N. 185th St. grand opening
- Fireworks banned in Shoreline

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Above is an illustration of the Aurora Corridor Project and Interurban Trail bridge over Aurora near Westminster.

1998

- Council implements communications committee recommendations: Owner's Manual, Currents newsletter, City Source column and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Committee
- Bronze ponies sculptures installed at Ronald Bog Park
- "Welcoming Figure" installed at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park
- North City Business District "Visioning" workshop
- Council adopts first Comprehensive Plan

1999

- Shoreline takes the lead in developing the Interurban Trail
- First meeting of the Shoreline Planning Academy
- Council adopts the Aurora Corridor Citizens Advisory Task Force's 32 points for the Aurora Corridor Plan

provide larger benefits to the community and plan on how they would be accomplished on a limited budget.

While budgeting for much-needed improvements, the City adopted a conservative approach to finances that it continues to use today. The Council sets aside money from unstable revenue sources for onetime expenditures like capital improvements and often leverages this money by using it as the matching portion for state and federal grants. This means that only stable revenues – money that the City can count on year after year – is used for ongoing expenses. This conservative practice keeps the City from growing beyond its means which in turn keeps the City financially secure during tough economic times when other government agencies made significant cuts.

The values the Council adopted at the beginning – investing in infrastructure and conservative budgeting – were driven by community values. And making sure community values were reflected in how the City developed was another goal the Council adopted early on.

Over the years the City has made two-way communication with the community a major priority. Public participation has been a cornerstone of how the City has developed all of its guiding documents, programs, plans and policies. To encourage community input on ongoing issues, the Council established volunteer advisory groups such as the Planning Commission, the Library Board, the Council of Neighborhoods and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board. These groups gather community input, study issues in-depth and provide recommendations to the City Council based on the information gathered.

Recently the City completed an almost two-year long process to

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create master plans for transportation, surface water and parks and open space that will be part of the Comprehensive Plan. Again, to ensure the master plans reflected community values, an extensive public participation process guided development of the plans.

Investing in Our Quality of Life

A benefit of obtaining local control over government decisions is the increased community influence on maintaining and improving its quality of life.

Human Services funding is one of the critical behind-the-scenes ways the City supports the community. Each year the City combines its dollars with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to support a wide variety of community services and programs for low- and moderate-income residents. Examples of the types of things Shoreline funds include an home repair program, community-based organizations such as the Center for Human Services and the Shoreline-LFP Senior Activity Center and accessibility improvements to Shoreline's system of sidewalks.

The most visible way the City promotes quality of life is by improving community-owned assets such as parks, roads, sidewalks and surface water systems.

Shoreline has come a long way in just 10 years in repairing problems and upgrading existing facilities and systems. Just a few of the capital projects that have been completed include improvements to Richmond Highland Recreation Center, Shoreline Pool, Spartan Recreation Center, Shoreview Park, Richmond Beach Saltwater Park and Paramount Park including the new Connie King Skate Park; Third Ave. NW Drainage Improvement Project; and 10th Ave. NE Drainage Improvements. And now Shoreline's three biggest projects are under construction: the Aurora Corridor Project N. 145th to N. 165th Streets and Interurban Trail Bridges Project; North City; and the Interurban Trail, which is partially complete.

The City has also put into place yearly programs to maintain existing infrastructure and build on what we already have such as

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2000

- Reconfigured Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Bluff Trail opens
- Council adopts Development Code
- City and School District execute Joint Use Agreement for sharing facilities

2001

- Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program begins
- Council adopts North City Plan
- City and School District open the Spartan Gym
- Remodeled Shoreline Pool grand opening

2002

- Remodeled Richmond Highland Recreation Center (REC) grand opening
- Renovated Shoreview Park grand opening
- Council creates "Municipal Arts Fund"
- Renovated Paramount School Park and new Skate Park grand opening
- Council adopts final design for the Aurora Corridor Project, N. 145th to N. 165th Streets



The remodeled Shoreline Pool opened in 2001 and Richmond Highlands Recreation Center and Shoreview Park both opened in 2002 after extensive renovations.



the Annual Road Overlay Program and Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Program.



2003

- Council adopts "Gateway" Policy & Guidelines Manual
- Council designates Boryeong, Republic of Korea as Shoreline's Sister City
- Interurban Trail first segment groundbreaking
- Shoreline delegation visits Boryeong, Republic of South Korea

Establishing and encouraging local landmarks to create a sense of place is another way the City has worked to improve quality of life. Public art such as the Ponies in Ronald Bog Park, the Welcoming Figure in Saltwater Park and the Rotary Raven at the Interurban Trailhead all promote Shoreline's unique identity. Shoreline gateways on N. 175th and N. 145th Streets as well as the light pole banners throughout the City add to the feeling of community.

Shoreline also provides Neighborhood Mini-Grants to help its neighborhood associations to promote their own sense of community. Since the program began, Shoreline neighborhood associations have completed over 40 Mini-Grant projects. Just a few examples of these projects include murals, street tree planting, neighborhood identification signs, playground equipment, community festivals, beach restoration and clean-ups, hanging baskets, accessible benches and picnic tables, and community events.

Early on the City also recognized the importance of cultural and recreational opportunities in creating a strong and balanced community. The City helps fund community-based cultural organizations such as the Shoreline Historical Museum, Shoreline-LFP Arts Council and the Sister Cities Organization serving the Shoreline community. Shoreline's award-winning Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department truly offers something for every age, ability and interest and keeps adding to its programs and special events each year.

One special event that brings the whole community together each year is Celebrate Shoreline featuring a parade and festival to honor the

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Shoreline and its sister city, Boryeong, exchanged visits within a year of signing the agreement (above). The groundbreaking for the first segment of the Interurban Trail in 2003 was followed by ribbon cuttings the next year for the first two segments to be completed (above and right).





Paramount Park was renovated in 2002 to include new ball fields, walking path and skate park. New playground equipment and a picnic shelter were added this year.



anniversary of incorporation. Appropriately for this anniversary year, Celebrate Shoreline 2005 drew more parade entries than ever before. The motto of Shoreline's 10th anniversary is "Founded on Community Spirit" and Shoreline proved the point by turning out in full force to celebrate a decade of accomplishments.

At the Celebrate Shoreline Festival this year, residents were asked to tell us in their own words why Shoreline was the "Best Place to Live." Comments fell roughly into five categories: 32% good neighborhoods; 26% good schools; 10% parks; 5% government; and 4% location. Here's what a few people had to say: "Because of its sense of community." "The community is very inclusive and friendly, and I enjoy the parks and proximity to the Sound." "It has safe, friendly neighborhoods – great schools and great accessibility to Seattle, mountains and Puget Sound."

Based on the mainstays of community participation, conservative financial planning and investment in the community that have been firmly grounded in Shoreline, the City's future promises stability and endless potential. There will undoubtedly be challenges in our future – the most predictable are financial. But Shoreline was founded on community spirit and community spirit will continue to serve us well into future. To those of us who live here, there is no question about why Shoreline was named the Best Place to Live.

2004

- Two segments of the Interurban Trail open
- Trail of Cedars in Twin Ponds Park dedication
- Council dedicates skate park to first Mayor Connie King
- Delegation from Boryeong, Republic of South Korea, visits Shoreline
- 3rd Ave. NW Drainage Improvement Project begins
- 10th Ave. NE Drainage improvements completed



2005

- Shoreline's Recreation Brochure and the Music Explosion Program receives WRPA Awards of Excellence
- Renovated Spartan Recreation Center grand opening
- Seattle Magazine ranks Shoreline as the "Best Place to Live"
- North City Project groundbreaking
- Aurora Corridor N. 145th to 165th Streets and Interurban Trail Bridges Projects groundbreaking
- Council adopts the Parks and Open Space Plan and the Transportation and Surface Water Master Plans
- 10th Anniversary Celebration



View of Puget Sound from the Richmond Beach Saltwater Park bluff trail (top photo). Upgrades to Spartan Recreation Center earlier this year added two new multi-purpose rooms among other additions (lower photo).



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